

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: STUPECKY)	
)	Prior Art Unit: 3765
U.S. Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned)	
)	Prior Examiner: Gary L. Welch
Filing Date: Filed Herewith)	
)	
Title: Device for Fleshing, Stretching and)	
Drying Leather or Similar Flat)	
Materials Such as Skins, Furs and)	
Such Like)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The applicant respectfully requests the amendment of the following:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

CROSS-RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional application of U.S. patent application no. 09/719,760, filed March 9, 2001, which is a 35 U.S.C. §371 application of International PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/01636; filed June 2, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 and 9 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 2-8 as follows:

1. (cancelled).
2. (currently amended) A ~~D~~device for the dewatering, stretching and drying of leather, and similar flat materials and pieces thereof, ~~thereby characterized that it possesses~~ having an interstice, sealed by a gasket ~~D~~ and connected to a vacuum source (~~VQ~~) for the leather piece (~~L~~) and consistsing of a support surface (~~AF~~), above which lamellae (~~LM1~~) are mounted with a drive mechanism (~~AV~~) to deploy ~~them~~ said lamella outwards from the centre,